

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04484 300936Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SNM-02 INR-05 L-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, JA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: THEBAINE AVAILABILITY FOR POTENTIAL
IMPORT INTO THE U.S.

REF: STATE 66063

1. SCIENCE COUNSELOR ACTED FOR NARCOTIC COORDINATOR IN OBTAIN-
ING FOLLOWING INFO ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS FROM AKIO ISHII,
DIRECTOR, NARCOTICS DIVISION, PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS BUREAU,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE.

2. AS STATED REFTEL, JAPANESE DRUG MANUFACTURERS DO HAVE
INVENTORY OF THEBAINE, RECOVERED AS BY-PRODUCT OF MORPHINE
PRODUCTION. WHEN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF THEBAINE HAS BEEN
ACCUMULATED, IT IS CONVERTED TO CODEINE. HOWEVER, MARKET PRICE
OF CODEINE FROM OTHER SOURCES AND DEMAND FOR CODEINE ARE
FACTORS IN DETERMINING WHEN OR IF CONVERSION IS UNDERTAKEN.
ISHII REFERRED TO UN PUBLICATION "STATISTICS ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
FOR 1975" (E/INCB/75) TO SHOW THAT JAPAN'S THEBAINE RECOVERY
IN 1975 "WAS 530 KG, RATHER THAN 387 KG FIGURE GIVEN IN REFTEL".

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3. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY ABOUT WHETHER THEBAINE COULD
BE EXPORTED TO U.S. FOR PURCHASE BY U.S. DRUG FIRMS,
ISHII SAID THAT HE COULD SEE NO REASON WHY SUCH AN ARRANGE-
MENT WOULD BE PRECLUDED, OTHER THAN DETERMINING MUTUALLY
AGREEABLE PRICE. THERE IS NO LEGAL RESTRICTION ON EXPORT,
OTHER THAN NEED FOR BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT UNDER

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONVENTION. APPARENTLY IN CONSIDERATION OF RELATIVELY WEAK MARKET FOR THEBAINE-DERIVED CODEINE, ISHII NOTED THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE MUCH INTEREST IN EXCHANGING THEBAINE FOR U.S.-PRODUCED CODEINE. RATHER, HE THOUGHT THAT JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OUTRIGHT SALE OF THEBAINE.

4. ISHII MADE CLEAR THAT BRACTYATUM POPPY IS NOT GROWN IN JAPAN COMMERCIALY, AND THAT ALTHOUGH RESEARCH ON THIS SOURCE OF THEBAINE IS UNDER WAY AT NATIONAL HYGIENIC LABORATORY, THERE ARE NO PLANS OR POLICIES IN GOJ AT PRESENT TO PERMIT GROWING BRACTYATUM POPPY ON OTHER THAN RESEARCH SCALE.

5. EMBOFF STRESSED CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCUSSION AND ASKED ISHII NOT REPEAT NOT TO CONTACT JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS OR OTHER AMERICANS ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL HE IS ADVISED THAT IT WOULD BE PROPER TO DO SO. HE AGREED.

6. FYI: ISHII IS AWARE OF DEA EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR GROWING BRACTYATUM POPPY IN U.S. AND IS MOST SYMPATHETIC WITH USG EFFORT TO REDUCE TRAFFICKING IN OPIUM AND OPIUM DERIVATIVES. END FYI.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, IMPORTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OPIUM, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977035/aaaaaeco.tel
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Message ID: fb1a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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